

Serial No.: 10/091,938
Atty Dckt: MIO 0092 PA

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of chemically treating a surface of a workpiece, comprising:

exposing the surface of the workpiece to a direct flow of a precursor gas to form a surface reactant thereon;

providing a flow of an input gas above the surface of the workpiece simultaneously with the direct flow of said precursor gas;

preventing the mixture of said precursor gas and said input gas with a purge gas;

directing a beam of electromagnetic radiation into said input gas to produce a high flux of generated reactive gas species; and

reacting said generated reactive gas species with said surface reactant.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said generated reactive gas species is selected from the group consisting of the noble gases, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen, and combinations thereof.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the generated reactive gas species is selected from the group consisting of NO, OH, NH, N, F, CF₃, CF₂, CF, NF₂, NF, Cl, O, BCl₂, BCl, FCO, and combinations thereof.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the input gas is selected from the group consisting of N₂O, NO₂, NH₃, H₂, H₂O, N₂, O₂, O₃, CCl₄, BCl₃, CDF₃, CF₄, SiH₄, CFCI₃, F₂CO, (FCO)₂, SF₅NF₂, N₂F₄, CF₃Br, CF₃NO, (CF₃)₂CO, CF₂HCl, CF₂HBr, CF₂Cl₂, CF₂Br₂, CF₂CFCI, CF₂CFH, CF₂CF₂CH₂, NH₃, CHF₃, fluorohalides, halocarbons, and combinations thereof.

Serial No.: 10/091,938
Atty Dckt: MIO 0092 PA

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the workpiece comprises a semiconductor substrate.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said reaction between said reactive gas species and surface reactant produces a desired material monolayer on the surface of the workpiece.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said electromagnetic radiation is ultraviolet radiation.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein preventing the mixture of said precursor gas and said input gas with said purge gas separating said precursor gas and said input gas is accomplished by simultaneously pumping and evacuating said purge gas.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said reactive gas species is generated a distance between about 2 millimeters to about 4 millimeters less than a few mean free path lengths of said reactive gas species above the surface of said workpiece.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of chemically treating a surface of a workpiece, comprising:
providing the workpiece to a chamber having a gaseous atmosphere containing a transmission gas that is substantially nonattenuating to preselected wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation;

Serial No.: 10/091,938
Atty Dckt: MIO 0092 PA

exposing the surface of the workpiece to a direct flow of a precursor gas to form a surface reactant for atomic layer deposition;

providing a flow of an input gas over the surface of the workpiece simultaneously with the direct flow of said precursor gas;

preventing mixture of said precursor gas and said input gas with a purge gas;

directing a beam of electromagnetic radiation into said gaseous atmosphere, said beam converging in the flow of said input gas in close proximity to the surface of the workpiece, but spaced a finite distance therefrom, to dissociate said input gas into a high flux of generated reactive gas species; and

reacting said generated reactive gas species with said surface reactant.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein separating said precursor gas and said input gas is accomplished by simultaneously pumping and evacuating said purge gas.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said precursor gas is flown from a first gas port of a dispenser unit.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said input gas is flown from a second gas port of said dispenser unit.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said purge gas is flown from a third gas port of said dispenser unit.

Serial No.: 10/091,938
Atty Dckt: MIO 0092 PA

15. (Original) The method claim 14, wherein separating said precursor gas and said input gas is accomplished by simultaneously pumping said purge gas via said third gas port and evacuating said purge gas by a pair of evacuation ports provided on said dispenser unit.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising causing relative motion between the surface, said dispenser unit and said beam to cause said dispenser unit and said beam to sweep over the surface of the workpiece.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising directing said beam of electromagnetic radiation from a laser source through a transparent window of said chamber into said gaseous atmosphere.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said transparent window is a window selected from the group consisting of quartz, sapphire, and zinc selenide.

19. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising causing relative motion between the surface and said beam to cause said beam to sweep over the surface of said workpiece.

20. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said beam is in the range of wavelengths of 248 nm and 193 nm, and having energy in the range of about 100 to about 5000 mJ/cm².

Serial No.: 10/091,938
Atty Dckt: MIO 0092 PA

21. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said generated reactive gas species is selected from the group consisting of the noble gases, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen, and combinations thereof.

22. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said generated reactive gas species is selected from the group consisting of chlorine, fluorine, and molecules containing fluorine or chlorine.

23. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the input gas is selected from the group consisting of N₂O, NO₂, NH₃, H₂, H₂O, N₂, O₂, O₃, CCl₄, BCl₃, CDF₃, CF₄, SiH₄, CFCl₃, F₂CO, (FCO)₂, SF₅NF₂, N₂F₄, CF₃Br, CF₃NO, (CF₃)₂CO, CF₂HCl, CF₂HBr, CF₂Cl₂, CF₂Br₂, CF₂CFCl, CF₂CFH, CF₂CF₂CH₂, NH₃, CHF₃, fluorohalides, halocarbons, and combinations thereof.

24. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the workpiece comprises a semiconductor substrate.

25. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising controlling the energy characteristics of said beam to match absorption characteristics of said input gas to produce said high flux of said generated reactive gas species.

26. (Original) The method of claim 10 where said transmission gas is a gas or mixture of gases that is non-attenuating to predetermined wavelengths of said electromagnetic radiation.

Serial No.: 10/091,938
Atty Dckt: MIO 0092 PA

27. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said transmission gas is selected from the group consisting of argon, nitrogen, helium, neon, and combinations thereof.

28. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising delivering a diagnostic beam of radiation to monitor said surface during said processing.

29. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said purge is selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, is selected from the group consisting of argon, nitrogen, helium, neon, and combinations thereof.

30. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said flow of said input gas is provided over the surface of the workpiece in as a gas layer having a thickness that is at least large enough to accommodate said finite distance.

31. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said finite distance less than a few mean-free-path lengths of said reactive gas species above the surface of the workpiece.

32. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein said generated reactive gas species is selected from the group consisting of NO, OH, NH, N, F, CF₃, CF₂, CF, NF₂, NF, Cl, O, BCl₂, BCl, FCO, and combinations thereof.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a surface of a workpiece comprising:
selecting a set of reaction parameters;

Serial No.: 10/091,938
Atty Dckt: MIO 0092 PA

loading said substrate into a reaction chamber;
pumping on said reaction chamber until a pressure according to said selected reaction parameters is achieved;

translating said substrate at a constant rate across said chamber according to selected reaction parameters;

flowing simultaneously into said chamber a precursor gas, a purge gas, and an input gas according to said selected reaction parameters;

evacuating said purge gas and any gases/residuals in vicinity of said purge gas to prevent mixing of the precursor and input gases; and

delivering a beam of electromagnetic radiation according to said selected reaction parameters into the flow of said input gas to produce a high flux of point of use generated reactive gas species which reacts with a surface reactant formed from said precursor gas impinging on said surface of workpiece at selected locations.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 further comprising flowing into said chamber a transmission gas.

35. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein said pressure is from about 0.1 Torr to about 100 Torr.

36. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein said surface reactant and said reactive gas species react to form a monolayer of a material.

Serial No.: 10/091,938
Atty Dckt: MIO 0092 PA

37. (Original) The method of claim 33 further comprising checking formation of said monolayer of said material on the surface of the workpiece for completeness according to said selected reaction parameters.

38. (Original) The method of claim 33 further comprising purging completely said chamber and removing said workpiece from said chamber after completion of said processing according to said selected reaction parameters.

39. (Original) The method of claim 33 further comprising directing said beam through a window of said chamber.

40. (Original) The method of claim 33 further comprising causing relative motion between said workpiece and said beam.

41. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein said flows of said input gas, precursor gas and purge gas are provided from a dispenser unit, wherein said dispenser unit further includes a pair of evacuation ports to evacuate at least said purge gas.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41 further comprising causing relative motion between said workpiece, said beam, and said dispenser unit.

Cancel claims 43-61.